I may mention here that I saw a few days ago a fine specimen of *Dipsas fusca* procured by Dr. J. C. Cox, from the Mudgee district, a very unlikely place one would suppose for a snake of its habits.

I take this opportunity also of correcting a mistake of mine in a previous paper. In page 221 of Vol. II. of our Proceedings, I gave the name of *Elapocephalus* to a new genus of snakes from Port Darwin. I find that Dr. Gunther had previously (Cat. Brit. Mus., Snakes, App. 2, p. 276) used the same name for a genus of South American Snakes of a very different family. I propose now to substitute the generic name *Elapocranium* for the Port Darwin Snake.

On the power of locomotion in the *Tunicata*.

By William Macleay, F.L.S.

A few weeks ago I found the sandy beach at Elizabeth Bay, strewn at low water, with a number of large Ascidian Mollusks. In this there is nothing remarkable, the severe storm of the 2nd of this month, having no doubt torn from their hold on the rocky or sandy bed of the sea, these helpless masses.

But I have observed with some astonishment that these masses are, or seem to be, capable of a certain amount of locomotion.

What I have observed is, that these large Ascidians do change their positions most undoubtedly; that in doing so they leave upon the wet sand a distinct track in accordance with the weight and size of the mass; and that these movements are not in any way attributable to winds or waves. I at first thought it possible that the movements might be due to the agency of some of the animals adhering to the outside of the mass, but I found that the only organic attachments, excepting a few small shells, were clusters of simple Ascidians, utterly incapable therefore of combined action, and much two small for their individual efforts to produce any effect.

Notwithstanding, however, this apparently convincing evidence, I am indisposed to believe it possible that an animal so completely shut up in a thick coriaceous unmuscular sac, can have any power of external movement, nor is it likely that such a power would be possessed by an animal whose whole life (except in infancy) has to be passed firmly rooted to the bottom of the sea. I hope that some one having the leisure and opportunity, will endeavour to solve this problem.

On some Australian Littorinidæ.

By the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, F.L.S., F.G.S., Corr. Memb. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., &c.

We have in Australia and Tasmania certain coast shells which are variously distributed in several genera by different authors. They all resemble each other in this, that they are found for the most part on rocks which are seldom covered by the tide. They are not nacreous. They have a horny operculum, with a marginal nucleus and few whorls, and the animal has a small round foot which has never tentacular filaments like the *Turbo*, *Trochus*, or *Phasianella*. They are generally widely distributed, subject to very much variation, according to the locality where they are found. This has led to the same shell being regarded in different places as a different species, and the varieties also have been regarded as different species. In order better to understand the present state of our knowledge of these marine mollusca, it may be as well to state the history of the genus, or rather its classification. To Linnæus all these shells were Turbos' and those which were known to Schrötter, Chemnitz, Gmelin, Favanne, Born, Humphrey, and Lamarck, came under the same generic appellation. In 1821 M. Baron Ferussac, in his large and expensive work on the fresh water shells of France (so large and so expensive that it was never finished), divided the genus *Paludina* into five sub-genera. He gave the fifth the name of *Littorina* (written also with one t, or two r's by various writers), and included in that the common perry-winkle *Turbo littoreus* of